



Tips for Internet Safety for Early Years



When online, children can learn new things, but there are also risks. We hope that this information can provide some useful tips for you and your family. From the moment you start to interact with your child around technology you should be thinking about them using it safely.

Talk to your child

Talk to your child about staying safe online. If they feel scared or uncomfortable they should know to tell you about it immediately. Have the conversation **early** and **often**.

Use Parental Controls

Use parental controls which can filter or monitor what your child can see. Check your internet homepage is set to a website that you are happy for your child to see. Explain to younger children that you have put controls on their devices to keep them safe.

Set the rules & agree boundaries

- The amount of time they are allowed (use an egg timer so your child knows how long they have left).
- Check the age rating of games & apps (age limits are there to keep children safe).
- Use the internet to plan special activities and treats.

Explore online together

- Choose apps, and games together which are both educational and fun.
- Try and ensure the device is being used in a busy area of the house where you can oversee what your child is doing.

Prevent your child from sharing their location

Location services allow applications such as maps and social networks to pinpoint your location.

You can disable location services on most electronic devices.



Prevent 'in-app purchases'

In-app purchases can occur in games but children may not be aware this is real money. Although you have to enter an iTunes Store account password to make a purchase, be aware there is a 15 minute window where purchases can be made without re-entering the password.

You can switch this off in parental controls.

YouTube

This is a very popular website where you can view videos. You may want to consider disabling this as there is no way of policing content may be inappropriate.

Managing & sharing devices with children of different ages

If you are buying a tablet for children to share, check you are able to create different user profiles. Children can then log in and out of their own profiles which have different parental controls.

Internet Safety at Abbot House

We have 2 iPad devices at Abbot House.

We ensure:

- ♦ Age appropriate Apps.
- ♦ Password protected restrictions to the Internet, iTunes, and Social Media.
- ♦ Use of Internet safety books
- ♦ Online safety awareness as a focus week and information to parents in line with Internet Safety Day (February)

Further information

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.childnet.com/kia

Click on the link 'Know it all' for parents

www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents

www.thinkyounow.co.uk/parents (CEOP)

www.vodafone.com (digital parenting)

